

**Minutes of the
Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources Element Subcommittee**
Thursday, October 14, 2004

Jim Siepmann, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Subcommittee Members Present

- Jim Siepmann – Comprehensive Development Plan Advisory Committee Representative
- Don Reed – Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Ellen Gennrich - Waukesha County Land Conservancy
- Bill Kolstad - City of Brookfield Parks Department
- Elaine Kraut - Town of Summit Park Board, Mineral Extraction Industry
- Paul Sandgren - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Tom Oberhaus - Town of Delafield Plan Commission, farmer
- Beth Leonard - City of Delafield Park and Recreation Commission
- Bob Bartholomew - Town of Vernon Plan Commission, farmer
- Barb Holtz - Town of Mukwonago Board, farmer
- Bruce Kaniewski - Comprehensive Development Plan Advisory Committee Representative
- Heather McGuire (attending for Jeff Herrmann) - Comprehensive Development Plan Advisory Committee Representative
- Steve Schultz - Ruekert and Mielke

Subcommittee Members Absent:

- Bob Miller – Farmer/Town of Oconomowoc
- Rob Fox – UW/Extension Agricultural Agent

Staff Contacts:

- Dale Shaver, Director - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use
- George Morris - Environmental Health Manager, Waukesha County Dept. of Parks and Land Use
- Richard Mace Planning and Zoning Manager - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use
- Kathy Moore, Senior Planner - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use
- Sandy Scherer, Senior Planner - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use
- Mark Jenks, Land Conservation Supervisor - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use
- Don Dittmar - Land Information Systems Manager
- Jerry Braatz - UW Extension Associate Professor of Community Development

Subcommittee Introductions

Comprehensive Planning Process Overview

Mr. Shaver indicated that many of the Communities asked if the County and/or the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) would be available to assist in updating the Development Plan to meet Smart Growth planning requirements. Due to limited staff resources, the County was unable to commit. The Waukesha County Planners group (planning professionals which represent all of the municipalities in Waukesha County) meet twice per year to discuss land use issues and it was decided the best way to accomplish it was through a cooperative/coordinated effort to take advantage of the data prepared by the SEWRPC, Waukesha County and the local municipalities. A “Memorandum of Understanding” was drafted and sent to all municipalities in Waukesha County (twenty-six municipalities have signed on). If the municipality chose to sign on, they have a representative on the overall Advisory Committee. The SEWRPC prepares a Comprehensive Plan for the region, which is updated on a 10-year cycle. Updates are

being prepared for the Transportation Plan and for a telecommunications study. The projections from the original Land Use Plan are being studied to determine which projections were correctly made regarding demographic changes and economic development against the 2000 Census information. Waukesha County worked with the SEWRPC on a separate Advisory Committee from 1993 to 1997 to prepare the Waukesha County Development Plan. At that time, all of the adopted Land Use Plans for the municipalities in Waukesha County were integrated. However, under the law, a County Development Plan has to incorporate, verbatim, any Development Plan adopted by a City or Village, but it is not extended under State Statute to Towns. If a Town has an adopted Land Use Plan, Waukesha County acknowledged them the same as a City or Village. With the new census information available from 2000 it is a good time to validate growth and change.

In 1997, when the County Development Plan was adopted, 24 communities had adopted Land Use Plans. Those plans should be updated with the 2000 census information. The “Smart Growth Law” states that communities must have a Comprehensive Development Plan, addressing nine essential elements to remain in the land use business before 2010. Some of the benefits of the coordinated document would be that Smart Growth requirements would be met, it would be cost effective to coordinate, makes efficient use of planning for resources and communities would have an active role to ultimately work off of a shared vision for land use.

Mr. Shaver indicated that the nine essential elements of the Smart Growth Plan were identified on a timeline including, who would be responsible for collecting the information. The Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Subcommittee will be responsible for collecting information regarding:

- Floodplains and Wetlands (County)
- Groundwater (SEWRPC)
- Agricultural Lands (County)
- Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Endangered Resources (SEWRPC)
- Lakes and Streams-(County)
- Nonmetallic Mineral Resources (County)
- Soils (County)
- Parks and Open Space (County and Local Municipalities)

There were questions as to if there was a Subcommittee, which would focus on public involvement and participation/public relations? Mr. Shaver replied “No”, however, there is a public information strategy, which is being created and will be brought into each of the subcommittee’s activity.

Web Page

Information regarding agendas, minutes, public involvement process, planning advisory committee and subcommittees, the text of the 1997 Development Plan, planning overview and planning progress will be hosted on the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use Webpage located at:

<http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/>

or

<http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/developmentplan/default.asp>

Role and Responsibilities of Subcommittee

Mr. Shaver referred to the “Scope of Study” for the Subcommittee and indicated its location on the website.

http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/development_plan/pdf/Ag_Nat_CulturSubcommittee_scope.pdf

The “Scope of Study” includes a list of the Subcommittee members, objectives, resources available and Staff contacts.

Sub-Committee Objectives:

1. Identification of Nonmetallic Mineral Extraction Areas and adjoining lands buffer standards.
Mr. Shaver indicated that several years ago the County Executive created the Mineral Extraction Advisory Committee, which contained individuals from the extraction industry, local elected officials and citizens impacted by living in close proximity to those types of operations. For the original Development Plan, the Committee worked with the gravel producers in the County to identify their parcels which were being acquired and held for future extraction. He indicated, the County would attend their next meeting and ask the Committee to update their information (from the mineral extraction companies). In order to avoid Land Use conflicts, the County will ask the Committee if there are standards for buffering if a property will be platted next to a parcel designated for extractions. This could minimize noise, dust, neighbor disputes, etc. The standards could be included in the recommendation for the Development Plan.
2. Identification of existing and proposed park and open space lands, including the incorporation of municipal park plans.
The Subcommittee will work with each of the individual municipalities in the County, reviewing the existing Park and Open Space Plan, which accurately identify lands which municipalities are interested in acquiring for park purposes. To expedite the process, the Parks Staff will work on it independently and bring the findings back to the Subcommittee.
3. Discuss and amend as necessary, criteria used for the delineation of prime agricultural lands.
Meet with agricultural representatives, explain the options for the delineation of prime agricultural lands and update land use maps.
4. Discuss the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission study on groundwater supply, and present Plan implementation recommendations
Receive current research updates on groundwater studies and associated land use recommendations.
5. Review and amend as necessary text from Chapter III – Natural Resource Base from the Development Plan for Waukesha County.

Resources Available

The “Scope of Study” also includes a list of various resources available for the Subcommittee’s use.

Comments/Questions

Mrs. Gennrich asked if all of the Committee and Subcommittee meetings would be open to the public? Mr. Shaver replied, "Yes". A member of the Subcommittee asked if the updated plan would be a County or SEWRPC document, to which Mr. Shaver replied, "A County document".

Distribution of Subcommittee Materials

The following materials were distributed at the meeting: Chapter 66.1001 Wis. Stat., Chapter III, Chapter IX, and Chapter XIII of the current Development Plan.

Meeting Times and Dates

It was decided that the next meeting would be held Thursday, December 9, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 255/259 of the Waukesha County Administration Building, 1320 Pewaukee Road, Waukesha, WI 53188.

Public Comment

None.

Comments/Questions

A member of the Subcommittee asked if open space conservancy and green infrastructure would be part of the Chapter? Mr. Shaver replied, "It could be". The Subcommittee will also work on terminology such as Smart Growth, open space planning, open space preservation of rural character, purchase of development rights to create open space, etc.

There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, Mrs. Kraut moved, seconded by Mr. Sandgren to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.